

LET US CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE SOCIALIST STATE

Cotton's Weekly

A CANADIAN SOCIALIST PAPER

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WM. U. COTTON, EDITOR AND PROP.
H. A. WEBB, BUSINESS MANAGER

Socialism may be defined as the economic brotherhood of man legalized.

Have you joined the socialist party yet? If you have not, you are behind the times.

Taft and Croker have been visiting together. Croker has become respectable and is a fit person to associate with the capitalistic ruler of the trust ridden states.

The New York Life Insurance company has sacked one thousand agents. With the competition of socialized effort it is found that fewer persons are necessary to do the work of the world.

In Cairo, Egypt, the students are rioting against the new press-muzzling laws. Great Britain is a freedom lover only in name. Egypt and India today are proving this as America proved it in the past.

The workers of the world have slowly worked their way up from slavery. The master class today would like to thrust the workers back into slavery. It is only the resistance of the workers themselves which keep them partially free.

The maximum penalty for kidnapping in the United States has been increased from twenty-five to fifty years. This was because a rich man's son had been captured. It is only the lives of the rich that are cared for these days.

Plutes and non-workers can join the socialist party of Canada, and will do so if they have the good of humanity at heart. Some of the greatest socialists of the various countries are rich men who are devoting their time, talent, energy and money to the advancement of socialism.

"The Anglo-German war scare continues with not a national cause," declares Goldwin Smith. Goldie is one of those gentlemen who shut their eyes to the plain truths of socialism, and will not see that the European capitalists want to bring on a war to stave off the coming of a Europe for the workers.

Mankind is naturally good. Preachers have taught that man was desperately wicked of himself and that it was religious instruction that made man good. By getting men to believe this doctrine religious leaders have managed to take great credit to themselves for things with which they have had very little to do.

The Toronto Printer and Publisher declares that several prominent publishing houses have expressed the feeling that there never has been such a dearth of high class men in editorial work. This is nothing but natural. What man with brains wants to get on a city daily and grind out the dope the paper-owners want chucked at the public?

Every four years in Canada the big interests turn the wheels and the capitalist press grinds out politics. After the elections are over few persons read what the government is busy about. Our elections are a farce as they do not deal bring to the attention of the people any vital questions. Politics must be remade to become interesting, and the socialist party of Canada is going to remake them.

The C. P. R. has just paid over five million dollars on their common stock. These five million goes to persons who do nothing in return for the money. At present dividends may be necessary to keep some persons going who are be-

yond the age of active work. When however, we get universal old age pensions, dividends will be unnecessary.

Laurier and Foster had a set to in the House of Commons the other day. The set to was not with swords or fists but with mouthy words. All that they said was taken down and is reported in Hansard. There are three long big columns of their words and the total makes a lot of idiotic drivel. This is the kind of stuff that the workers of Canada pay their two hundred odd representatives two thousand five hundred dollars a year to listen to.

Goldwin Smith declares that before we can have socialism men must be rolled out flat so that all may be equal. Goldwin Smith is mistaken. Men under socialism will become extremely varied and diversified. The brute struggle for mere existence will have ceased and the struggle in the intellectual, moral and artistic realms will have been begun in dead earnest.

Society must preserve order for its own good. The leaders of newer ideals must seek to rebel against the lower order of things, which organized society enforces. Thus comes the eternal rebellion of reformers against established conditions. Organized society generally hangs the reformer and adopts his doctrine.

There are two brands of socialism on the market. The first is the milk and water, "Love your neighbor, 'O, be joyful" kind, that is preached from some pulpits and which has no relation whatsoever to economics. The second kind is the scientific, revolutionary, economic, working-class movement as instituted by Karl Marx. The first kind has become outworn. The second kind is but in its infancy.

The little coasting captains down in Nova Scotia are being squeezed out of business by the rules of shipping coal laid down by the coal barons, and the lack of rules laid down by the Liberal cabinet. The representatives of the people up at Ottawa are too busy squabbling among themselves and getting mad over the petty passions of their leaders that they have no time to listen to the cries of distress raised by the little sea captains of the Maritime provinces who are being taken aside and squeezed out of existence by the coal trust.

The Liberals were going to do great things when they went into power. They were going to work for freedom and were going to down the rule of the bosses. In power they have calmly appropriated all the conservative doctrines and the government has kept on in the capitalistic tenor of its ways. Were the conservatives returned to power the country would not know the difference. Both parties look alike to the big interests which carry the capitalist M. P.'s around with them in their vest pockets.

A SPLENDID NUMBER

The Private Prison of Diaz, by John Murray, is the leading article which appears in the April number of the International Socialist Review. Mr. Murray is fully capable of handling this subject as he visited the prison personally, and brought away many photographs which appear in the Review.

H. Quelch, of England, and Robert Hunter discuss the British Labor Party—pro and con, while James O'neal contributes one of his well-known Gorky-esque short stories, "The Terror."

The first installment of "Stories of the Cave People," by Mary E. Marcy promises much that we have long needed

in the way of material to be used in classes for young folks, and Louis Duchez's, "The Proletarian Attitude" will gladden the hearts of every wage-worker.

In this issue, Joseph E. Cohen, who has been conducting a remarkably successful Study Course in Socialism in the Review, writes on Socialism and Science. Several other contributions on live subjects, and an attractive cover, make the April number of the Review the best ever published.

To Our Comrades of the Paris Commune of 1871

GERALD O'CONNEL DESMOND

Note:—The Paris Commune of 1871 is generally considered to mark a most important event—the first proletarian rebellion of modern times. It was recently celebrated by socialists all the world over.

The spirit of freedom spoke to France in eighteen seventy-one

This is the time when a blow must be struck and a mighty deed be done; This is the time for the sword to be drawn and a bold defiance hurled, This is the time for the men of France to awaken the sleeping world!"

They heard, and the bells of Paris rang out their wild alarms, All through the giant city the people sprang to arms, Grim, unyielding, determined, militant, bold and strong, Grasping the sword of Freedom, chanting her battle song.

Tyranny mustered its forces, rushed to the fierce attack Bravely they struck and struggled, pressing the despots back, Never a word of surrender, or a sign of fear displayed. Till at last, men and women, together they died at the barricade.

What tho' they died? The world has seen the hearts of the peoples stirred All thro' the wakened nations went out the rallying word; And the spirit of freedom shouted above the Commune's slain, "Ye died for me, my children. Think not ye died in vain."

This is nineteen hundred and nine, the swift years roll along, Louder today than ever rises the rebel song, Faster the people gather; comrades, the day comes soon— The day of the consummation, the day of the great commune.

But theirs be the place of glory, theirs be the place of pride, The first who dared the conflict, the first who bravely died, Hail to them, Heroes, heroines; honor each glorious name, Defeated, yet still victorious; crowned with immortal fame.

HOW TO HUSTLE FOR SUBS.

W. R. SHIER

The best way to make Socialists is to get subscribers to Socialist papers. You can talk to a man from now to doomsday, but if you do not get him reading our literature, he will never be of much use to our movement.

If every socialist in the Canada secured only one subscription a month for some socialist paper or other, it is safe to say that our party would quadruple its strength each year.

Now, there is no reason in the world why every party member should not help to boom the circulation of Socialist magazines and papers.

It is easy to get subs., a perfect cinch, all that is required being a little gall and stick-to-it-ness.

Suppose you try this stunt. After reading this paper, hand it to your grocer. When he has been given three or four copies in succession, ask him what he thinks of it. Tell him about the importance of understanding the Socialist movement. Impress upon him that Socialist papers are the only papers that dare tell the whole, naked truth. Then tackle him for a subscription.

The best way is to ask him to subscribe for one year. If he balks at that, request a six months subscription. Failing in this, persuade him to try it for three months. If he still holds back, tell him you will take the price of the subscription out in trade.

In this way, tackle in turn your butcher, your baker, your milkman, your laundryman, your neighbor, everyone, in short, with whom you deal.

Socialists are working to free mankind of material want and from all exploitation. If there has ever been a nobler religious aspiration than this, we have never heard of it.

A Talk With Union Men

ROSCOE A. FILLMORE

Mr. Union Man, I hear you telling of the growth of your union. I read in your papers of the alleged mighty things which you have done and are doing. I read of the concessions which you have won from time to time either in larger wages or shorter hours. For a time after reading of these things I am duly impressed. But I notice that as your wage increases the purchasing power of your dollar diminishes.

Can't you see that, even though you may, by a show of force, compel your employer to raise your wages, he, being the owner of the products of your labor, can increase the price of the commodities which you must have and thus get it all back again?

If you strike against intolerable conditions your employer applies for a regiment of militia and you are shot and bayoneted for daring to resist the will of the "Lord's Anointed." Perhaps you have never thought over these facts. You are mayhap one of the "safe and sane" union workingmen who believe that as the membership of the unions is increasing therefore their power as against that of the employers must also be on the increase. Because of this you no doubt think that your union is the very acme of perfection, that it is the only weapon necessary to give your class peace and plenty.

We socialists have many times told you, and we are still reiterating the statement, that your union, as a weapon with which to carry on the class-struggle, is practically obsolete. And, as if to confirm us in this, along comes the annual report of the Department of Labor containing the following table which tells us of the number of disputes reported and the manner in which they were settled.

Year	Employer's favor	Men's favor
1901	40	39
1902	35	46
1903	49	45
1904	34	24
1905	37	24
1906	45	41
1907	57	33

You will note that the number of victories for organized labor becomes smaller each year when compared with the defeats. You should also remember that the years for which these figures tell the story were considered the most prosperous in history. However this is not the worst by any means. On page 178 of the same report the following table is given. It gives the number of disputes in which the employers or men won without negotiations and also the number of strikes in which the men were replaced.

Year	Employers win	Men win	Men replaced
1901	13	0	13
1902	20	0	12
1903	26	19	15
1904	25	7	10
1905	10	5	24
1906	28	3	18
1907	26	2	26
	148	36	118

From this you will see that the gains of organized labor become steadily smaller and also that out of a total of 302 straight fights without negotiations union labor won out in only 36 cases. These figures are significant are they not? If any of you doubt the truthfulness of these statements just drop a postal card to the Department of Labor at Ottawa asking for the annual report for the Fiscal Year 1907-8.

Now my labor-union friends what are you going to do about this? You have seen how the courts, militia and in fact organized society is against you in your troubles with your bosses. Do you still believe that it is only necessary to butt your empty stomach against your employer's millions in a strike in order to win your rights?

Now I believe I can tell you just what is the matter with your tactics. You insist upon the union label on your clothing, the cigars you smoke etc., while you walk to the polls on election day and vote a scab ballot. This is the reason that, in spite of the splendid organization which you have built up, your strength as compared with that of your masters is constantly diminishing.

You have had the doctrine that politics should not be brought into the union dinned into your ears ever since you joined. As a result of this you walk to the polls and vote for the very men who are endorsed by your masters. And your masters back these men only because they know that in case you and your brothers become unruly they (the masters) can depend upon the politi-

cians to support "property rights" as against your human rights.

If you fellows don't know this you should take the first opportunity to learn something. If you don't know this your heads are useless and as they are not at all ornamental you should exchange them for blocks of wood.

To those of you who have begun to realize that these statements are true I wish to talk a little longer. You can see that both the Liberal and Conservative parties are "tarred with the same stick." "Wine, women and graft" are the only interesting subjects to the professional politicians and corporation henchmen, who control them. This being the case you can surely see that "independent political action" must be your watchword.

Now don't fly off at tangent and propose the formation of an independent labor party at once. Allow me to tell you that we already have a labor party organized in every province, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, in the Dominion. This labor party says that as labor produces all wealth therefore to labor should belong the product. It stands for the common ownership of industry, true democracy both political and industrial, or to be plain, Socialism. Study it my brother worker and it will show you how hope can buoy up the heart and soul of man and make life worth the living. Try it and see.

The form of modernism most feared by the pope and the hierarchy is modern socialism.

Every socialist wants a copy of Karl Marx. Get twenty-five yearly subs for Cotton's and it is yours.

We are often asked "What is socialism?" It is whatever the workers want when they can get a chance to fully express themselves.

It is amply demonstrated that Canada needs a prejudice-breaking socialist propaganda paper. Cotton's Weekly seems to fill a long felt want.

Capitalism requires armies and navies, policemen and detectives, and jails to keep it going, and with all this, it is in constant dread.

Nothing is so well liked by the capitalist press as to show its readers in fine articles how to live sumptuously on a few cents a day.

Drop a card comrades, if you have not yet received any sub blanks. They will be sent on the slightest provocation. Makes it very easy to send in an order.

Capitalism is the enemy of economy. It wastes in war, slaughters our forests, guts our mines, wastes our soils, and squanders the products of the workers.

The summer is coming. Now is the time to get Cotton's into the home of your friends and acquaintances. A good many are taking advantage of our trial offers. Ten trials for \$1.00. Some of the locals are making use of this excellent means of propaganda.

It is a noticeable fact that few families are able to own their own homes. Think of it after all these centuries, and in view of labor saving machinery. Capitalism is responsible for these conditions. Socialism will abolish them.

Do not look the importance of putting your barber on our list. Hundreds of men are able to read socialist literature in this way, that ordinarily never hear of socialism in its true sense. We already have all the barbers in several cities on our list, showing that comrades are wise to the benefits. \$1.00 will send Cotton's to ten barbers for three months.

The socialist knows no doubts or fears. He knows he is right and works ahead perfectly serene. If his reputation suffers or he is hurt otherwise, it makes no difference. Beyond it all, he sees ultimate victory for the good of all mankind.

Many are the words of encouragement that come in, accompanied by a frayed dollar bill. "Best ever." "None to equal it." "Keep it going." "You have the right idea." "Show the light." "A phenomena, but the right kind, and in a vital spot." "It does the work." "We like it because all the family can read it." Women folks like to read it. "My non-socialist friends like it." "It is conducted on sensible lines." Keep it that way and we will win out." All from Canadian comrades.

The Old Socialism and the New

JOHN SPARGO

Continued from last week.

The development of the theory of evolution and its application to society came at a time when the miserable failure of the Utopian Socialist schemes had for the moment discredited the Socialist ideal. Some said that the Socialists were flying in the face of Providence; others said they were vainly struggling against human nature. But the new theory of life challenged all such criticisms as these, and, more important than that, gave new life to the Socialist ideal. The world which men had believed to be only a few thousand years old was shown to be immeasurably older; the life of mankind upon the earth was shown to have been spent under different forms of social relation, growing naturally out of each other.

The old Socialism which consisted of ingenious but abortive attempts to create new social systems of preconceived design, to begin the world's history anew, and ignored the natural laws of progressive development, was dead. Science had shown the causes of the failure of the little communal islands which Owen and so many others sought to build and maintain in the hostile currents of the ocean of competition. It had destroyed for ever the idea that new social systems could be made to order. True, a few visionaries remained who still continued to make the effort. A few such belated survivals remain with us to this day, but the Socialist movement has nothing to do with their schemes. The new Socialism rose, Phoenix like, from the ashes of the old Utopian Socialism, or, in other words, the new scientific movement took the place of the old Utopian movement when science demonstrated that the failure of the latter was due to its own inherent weaknesses.

TO BE CONTINUED

A LIST

Of Famous People Who Are Avowed Socialists

George Bernard Shaw, the greatest of living dramatists.

H. G. Wells, the noted English author and sociologist.

Sidney Webb, England's foremost economist.

Alfred Russel Wallace, co-discoverer with Charles Darwin of the theory of evolution and the last of the great scientists of the Nineteenth century.

Rev. R. J. Campbell, leader of the New Theology movement in England.

Upton Sinclair, author of "The Jungle" and other noteworthy books.

Jack London, one of the most popular fiction writers in the English-speaking world.

William Dean Howells, the "dean of American letters."

Charles Edward Russel, the noted magazine writer.

Anatole France, the leading Frenchman of letters.

Enrico Ferri, the noted Italian criminologist whose studies are eclipsed only by those of his colleague, Cesare Lombroso.

Emile Vandervelde, member of the Belgian Chamber of Deputies; professor of Political Economy at the Universite de Brussels and author of several books on economics that have achieved an international reputation.

August Bebel, the ablest debater in the German Reichstag.

Jean Jaures, who is acknowledged to be the most brilliant orator in France.

Francis Willard, the great temperance worker, who declared shortly before her death that had she her life to live over again, it would be devoted to the Socialist Movement.

Also Emile Zola, Victor Hugo, Erik Ibsen, Wendell Phillips and John Stuart Mill are all entitled to be placed in the Socialist camp.

We are learning that the Canadian farmer is susceptible to the appeal of socialism.

Socialists work by the ballot, not the bullet.

If a copy of this paper comes through the mail to your home, or if one is handed to you by somebody, it is an invitation to you to subscribe. You will get worth in sound education many times the subscription price and you help make possible the existence of a paper fighting the battles of the working class.